

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 In a method of retrieving electronic messages, a
server sends a header and first N text characters of the
message body to a terminal device, while holding back any
remaining text and attachments. The server also sends a
first flag to the terminal device indicative of any
remaining text characters and a second flag indicative of
any attachments. A user of the terminal device can then
decide, based on displayed indications reflective of the
status of the flags, to retrieve more text characters and/or
10 any of the attachments. Such phased message retrieval
avoids downloading oversized messages and thus saves
bandwidth. The terminal device may be a handheld device,
for example, a mobile telephone or a PDA.